

REMARKS

Claims 8-22, 24-25 and 27-32 are pending. Applicants elect with traverse Group 2 (claims 12-20 and 29-32) for examination on the merits. With regard to the requirements for an election of species, a functional variant which is APC-KKK191/193AAA and a neurodegenerative disease which is Alzheimer's disease are elected. Claims 12-20 and 29-32 read on at least one of the elected species. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute non-elected subject matter in a further patent application.

The amendments are fully supported by the original disclosure and, thus, no new matter is added by their entry. The breadth of the claims is not changed because the amendment of claim 31 is directed to correcting an informality that by its nature (e.g., a typographical error) clarifies and does not limit the scope of claim 31. For example, an obvious typographical error is corrected.

Notwithstanding the above election, reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested because examination of all pending claims would not constitute a serious burden. Although the inventions identified by the Examiner are separately patentable, both the need for compact prosecution and the public interest would be served by examination of all claims in a single application. In particular, the claims of Groups 2 to 13 should be examined in the same application. They relate to methods of treatment and of screening for therapeutic molecules based on the use of structurally/functionally related molecules and binding to their cognate receptors. Thus, claims 21-22, 24-25 and 27-28 should not be withdrawn from consideration.

There are generic or linking claims in this application. Thus, examination should proceed under the provisions of M.P.E.P. § 809. With regard to the Examiner's descrip-

tion of the different groups of inventions, it is noted that claim 12 (as well as other claims reciting “variants”) is generic for APC mutants that are still functional and claim 30 is genetic for neurodegenerative diseases.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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